Agriculture Profile

Fort St. John District

Province of British Columbia

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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Province of
British Columbia
Ministry of
Agriculture and Food

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The report is descriptive, and includes statistical information from a variety of sources. It is designed primarily as an information base for use by Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff in district goal identification and program planning.

The authors acknowledge with gratitude the assistance and co-operation received from individuals and organizations both public and private during the preparation of this report.

This report is one of a series covering the eighteen District Agriculturists' Office Areas of British Columbia.

Abbotsford
Chilliwack
Cloverdale
Courtenay
Cranbrook
Creston
Dawson Creek
Duncan
Fort St. John
Kamloops
Oliver
Prince George
Quesnel
Salmon Arm
Smithers
Vanderhoof
Vernon
Williams Lake

BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGIONS

AGRICULTURAL PROFILE - FT. ST. JOHN DISTRICT

PREFACE

BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food has divided the Province into eighteen agricultural districts, each served by a District Agriculturist. Profiles of these districts were first developed in 1980 under the Canada-British Columbia Agriculture and Rural Development Subsidiary Agreement (A.R.D.S.A).

The availability of new data from the 1981 Census of Agriculture resulted in a need for major revision. The present profile is an updated version reflecting the Census information. At the same time, the profiles have been expanded to include information not previously available, and many of the tables have been restructured to show a more detailed breakdown of different variables by farm sales.

CAVEAT

As the agricultural districts were designed to meet the needs of the farming community, and as their boundaries were developed to ensure efficient use of the District Agriculturist's time, the boundaries do not necessarily coincide with those of the Census Divisions or Subdivisions. However, statistical data from the Census of Agriculture is currently only available for Census Divisions and Subdivisions. An attempt was made, both in the original profiles and in these updates, to choose census divisions and subdivisions which most closely represent the agricultural districts. In this profile all references to the Ft. St. John District are to the area covered by census division 55-Peace River-Liard sub. A.

STRUCTURE

The profiles have been designed to provide a comprehensive source of statistical information on each agricultural district. They have been divided into three sections: an overview of the district, a description of the farms and farmers of the district, and a description of the farm products of the district.

CONTENTS

	Page
Acknowledgement	iii
Preface	v
Background	
Structure	
Scope	
Methodology	
Contents	vii
List of Tables	viii
List of Maps	ix
Overview: Ft. St. John District	1
Ft. St. John: Agricultural Resource Base	13
Farm Taxfiler's Income	
Agricultural Employment	
Agricultural Activity	
Agricultural Land Development Act Work	
Farm Capital	
Age of Operators	
Ft. St. John: Agricultural Production	24
Livestock and Related	
Vegetables and Specialty Crops	
Small Fruit and Tree Fruit	
Field Crops	
Appendix	33
Terms Used in Census of Agriculture	
Terms Used in Land Capability Ratings	

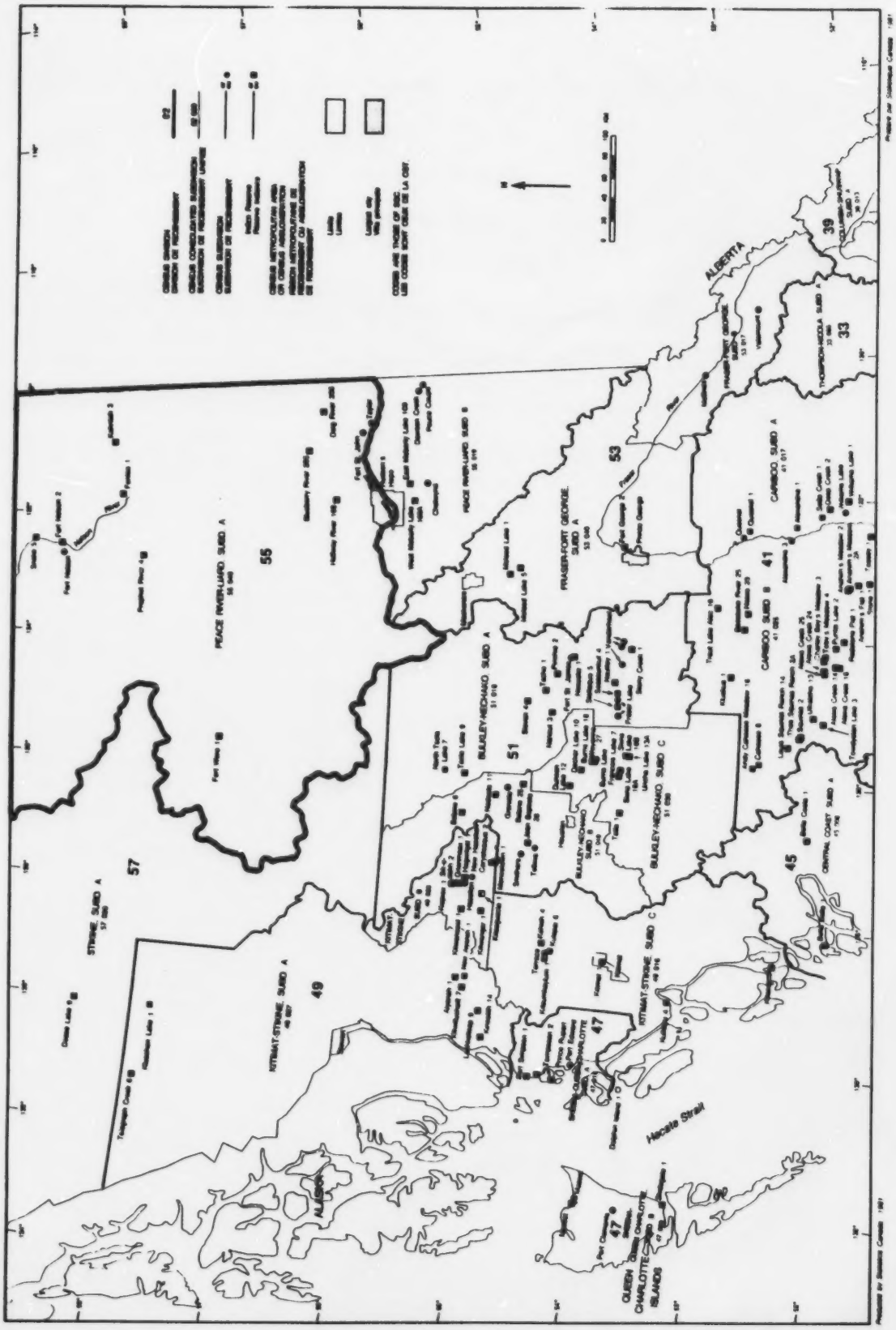
LIST OF TABLES

		Page
1.	Climatic Data - Ft. St. John/Niagara Falls/Saskatoon Compared	3
2.	Agricultural Land Reserve Areas: Summary Table	5
3.	Agriculture Land Capability	7
4.	Agriculture and Grazing Lease Data	8
5.	Use of Land by Farm Sales Class	9
6.	Number of Farms by Farm Sales Class	10
7.	Farms Classified by Product Type and Sales.	11
8.	Farms Classified by Size and Sales.	12
9.	Farms Classified by Capital Value and Sales	14
10.	Total Farm Capital by Farm Sales.	15
11.	Sales of Farms.	16
12.	Average Age of Farmers.	17
13.	Farm Taxfilers' Incomes	18
14.	Off-Farm Work by Farm Operators - By Type of Work	19
15.	Off-Farm Work by Farm Operators - By Number of Days	20
16.	Hired Agricultural Labour by Farm Sales	21
17.	A.L.D.A. Work Completed	22
18.	Spraying, Dusting and Irrigation.	23
19.	Use of Fertilizer	23
20.	Estimate of Farm Cash Receipts.	25
21.	Area in Field Crops by Farm Sales	26
22.	Area in Vegetables by Farm Sales.	27
23.	Area in Small Fruit by Farm Sales	28
24.	Area in Tree Fruit by Farm Sales.	29
25.	Area in Specialty Crops by Farm Sales	30
26.	Livestock Numbers by Farm Sales	31
27.	Poultry Numbers by Farm Sales	32

LIST OF MAPS

B.C. Agricultural Reporting Regions	iv
Ft. St. John Agricultural District	x
Peace River Agricultural Land Reserve Area	4
Peace River Land Capability Ratings	6

FT. ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT



OVERVIEW: FT. ST. JOHN DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

The Ft. St. John Agricultural District occupies over 16 million hectares in the Peace Agricultural Reporting Region. The Rocky Mountain Trench, which is rolling to mountainous, and the eastern section of the Great Plains, which is largely flat and featureless, are the two predominant physiographic areas.

Census figures indicate a 1981 population of 32,160, an increase of 27.8 percent over 1976 levels. The urban/rural distribution has remained relatively static over the last few years, with the rural population experiencing a slight increase. Total experienced labour force totals 15,820, with the majority employed in the personal services, trade, communication, construction and agriculture sectors.

The major agricultural activity in the district consists of field crop production. In 1981, field crop production was the primary activity of 57 percent of farms. Cattle production was the primary activity of 20 percent of holdings in 1981 while mixed production was reported by 9 percent of operations. Field crop production was the primary activity of 66 percent of holdings with sales greater than $50,000 in 1981. Farm cash receipts totalled $29 million in 1981, 3 percent of the provincial total. Field crops and cattle and calves accounted for 42 and 26 percent of receipts respectively.

The Ft. St. John District accounts for 346,165 hectares in agricultural holdings, approximately 16 percent of the provincial total. The total number of farms enumerated by the 1981 Census of Agriculture was 868. Farms are larger than the provincial average in Dawson Creek where 63 percent of farms are larger than 160 hectares, average farm size is 400 hectares compared to 109 hectares for the province as a whole. In 1981, 58 percent of farmland was classified as improved compared with 43.4 percent for the province.

Local opportunities exist in the swine and dairy industries. The large size of holdings alleviates the environmental impacts of swine production. The feed grain and rapeseed industries complement swine production, making the Peace one of the lowest cost swine producing areas of B.C. Dairy producers also enjoy a relatively low cost source of feed for their operations. Foreign land ownership in the area may lead to changes in the production profile as varied agricultural practises are introduced in future years.

Additional opportunities for agricultural expansion exist in the region as the Peace is one of the few areas remaining in Canada where there is still a significant potential for new land to be put into production, particularly in the Ft. St. John District.

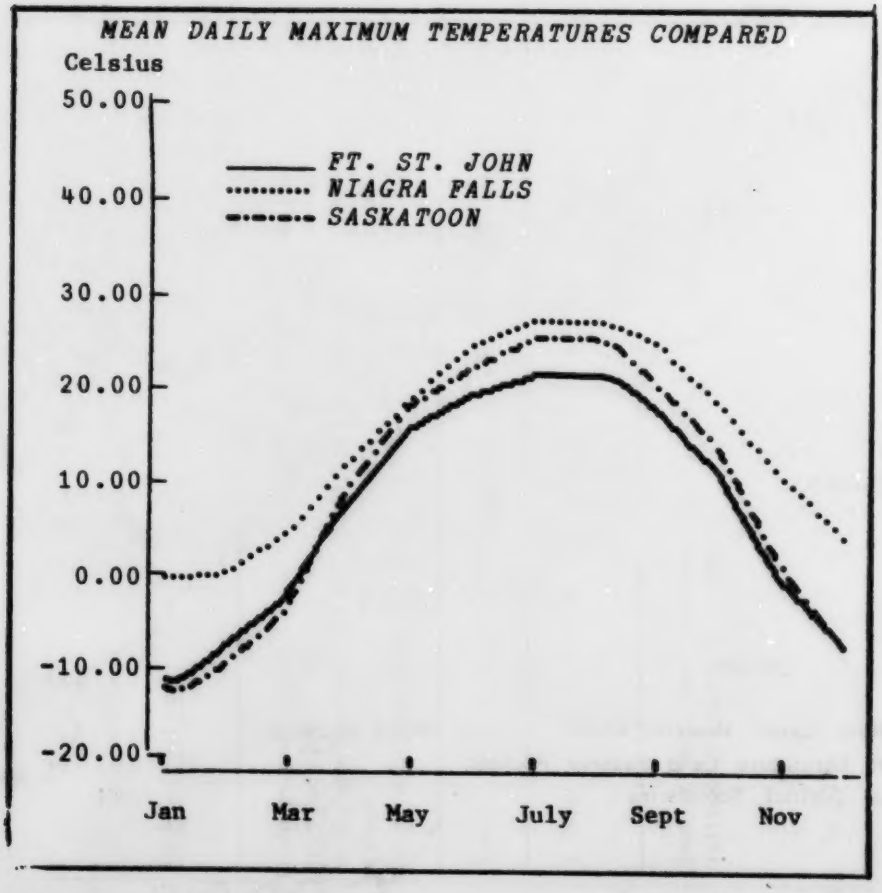
TABLE 1

CLIMATIC DATA

FT. ST. JOHN/NIAGARA FALLS/SASKATOON COMPARED

	FT. ST. JOHN	NIAGARA FALLS	SASKATOON
Growing Degree Days	1,268.6	2,472.7	1,619.9
Frost Free Period	115	172	117
Total Precipitation	492.6	942.3	348.8

Source: Canadian Climate Normals 1951-1980
Temperature and Precipitation Normals 1951-1980
Environment Canada



PEACE RIVER ALR AREAS

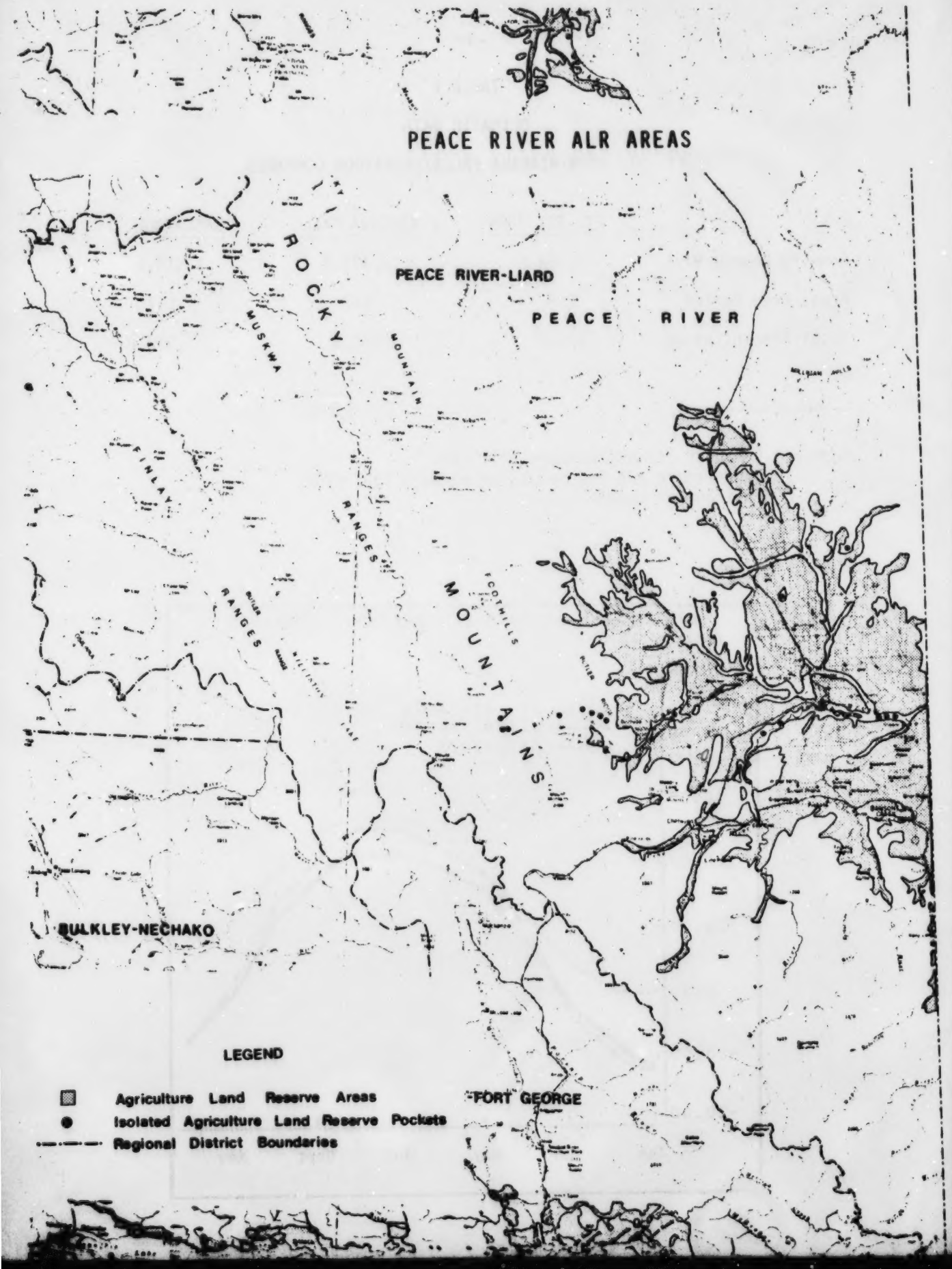


TABLE 2

PEACE RIVER-LIARD REGIONAL DISTRICT

AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE AREAS IN HECTARES

SUMMARY TABLE: LAND CAPABILITY CLASS BY PRESENT LAND USE

Present Land Use

	1	2	3	4	1-4	5	6	7	Water	Total	%Total
Forages and Grains	2,440	82,620	92,190	106,190	289,440	60,650	1,280	830	0	352,200	26
Horticulture	0	60	40	0	100	0	0	30	0	130	0
Grassland and Pasture	320	5,970	14,270	20.370	40,930	14,570	930	780	0	57,210	4
Forest	760	23,690	221,600	293,360	621,580	261,070	13,260	10,440	0	906,350	68
Non-Productive Lands	30	930	2,790	3,860	7,610	2,230	100	230	10,110	20,280	2
Total	3,550	113,270	336,890	505,950	959,660	338,250	15,570	12,310	10,110	1,336,170	
% Total	0	9	25	38	72	25	1	1	1		

Source: B.C. Land Inventory Report, Vol. 1, 2
Tallsman Project Inc., 1980.

PEACE RIVER LAND CAPABILITY

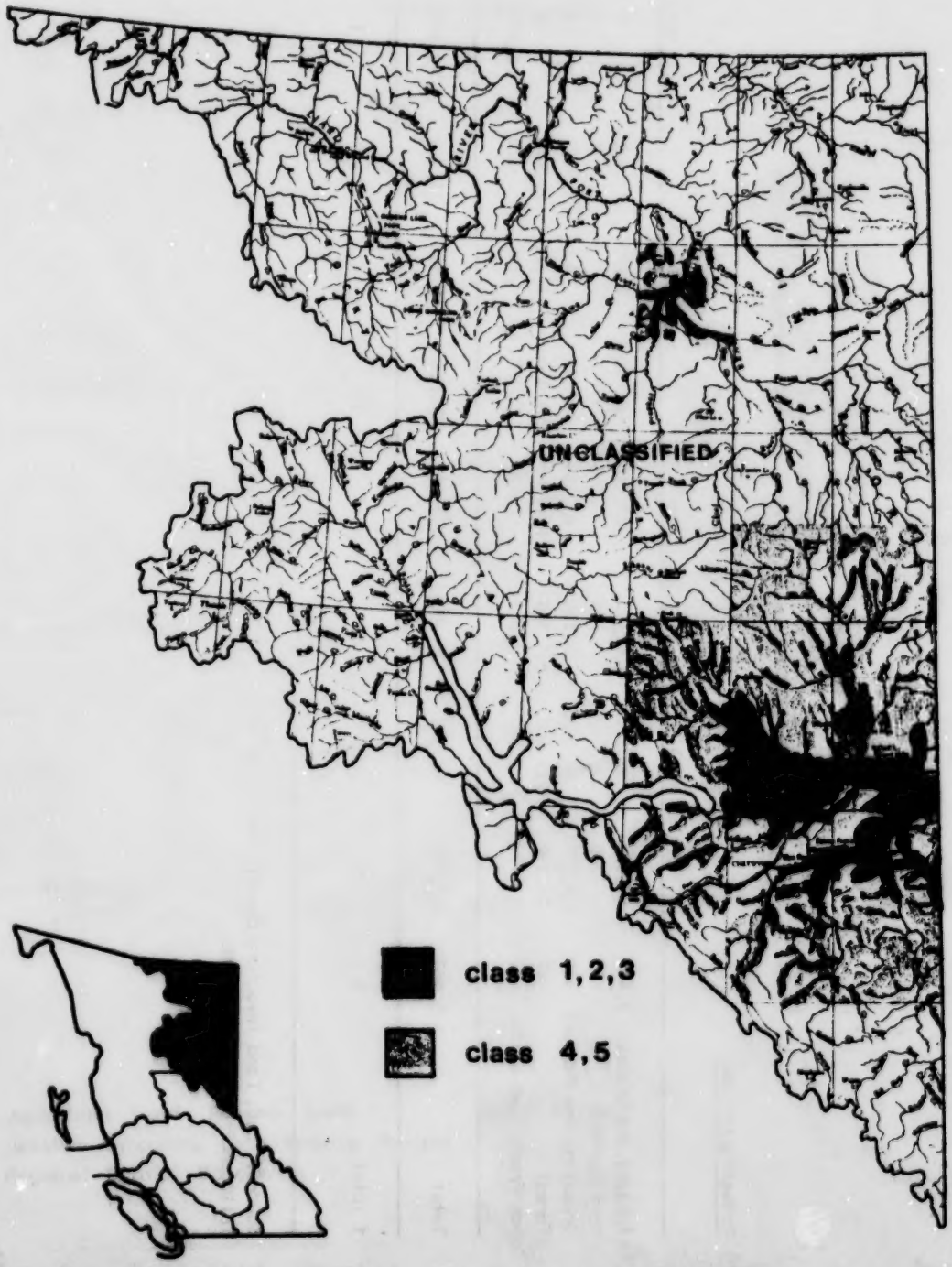


TABLE 3

PEACE AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGION

AGRICULTURE LAND CAPABILITY

Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Water Surface	Other*	Total
Hectares ('000s):										
Unimproved	3.8	121.0	365.0	501	1,683	592.5	1,499	80.7	16,059	20,905
Improved**	3.8	121.0	374.6	535.5	1,997	571.8	1,162	80.7	16,059	20,905.4
Percent:										
Unimproved	0.02	0.58	1.75	2.39	8.05	2.83	7.17	0.39	76.82	100.0
Improved**	0.02	0.58	1.79	2.56	9.55	2.73	5.56	0.39	76.82	100.0

*Other includes unclassified urban areas, national parks and unmapped portions of the district.
**Rating if land unit were irrigated and/or drained.

Source: Agriculture Land Capacity in British Columbia, ARDA Project #89077, 1976.

TABLE 4
FT. ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AGRICULTURE AND GRAZING LEASE DATA IN HECTARES

Lease Type: Grazing

Year	No. of Leases	Area
1983	0	-
1982	0	-
1981	1	259
1980	0	-
1980-1983	1	259
TOTAL	38	8,171.99

Lease Type: Extensive Agriculture

1983	21	2,7040
1982	77	10,463.90
1981	35	7,426.64
1980	43	7,838.04
1980-1983	176	28,432.57
TOTAL	526	84,755.95

Lease Type: Intensive Agriculture

1983	2	-
1982	1	123.71
1981	0	-
1980	2	65.47
1980-1983	5	588.88
TOTAL	9	622.69

Total lease area in Ft. St. John: 1980-1983: 29,280.45
Total lease area in Ft. St. John: : 93,550.63

Source: B.C. Crown Land: Range and Cultivated Land Inventory, B.C.M.A. 1984

TABLE 5

USE OF LAND BY FARM SALES CLASS: FT. ST. JOHN -IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	87	65	110	112	355	139	868
Total Area of Farms	10,633	28,922	16,739	27,434	123,654	138,783	346,165
Total Improved Land Area	4,727	6,037	8,787	13,169	76,464	90,871	200,056
Total Area Under Crop	2,149	3,286	5,325	8,373	8,373	66,600	138,040
Number of Farms Reporting	70	54	102	108	349	136	819
Area of Improved Pasture	1,319	951	849	1,648	1,648	8,278	23,483
Number of Farms Reporting	40	31	48	52	178	67	416
Area in Summer Fallow	926	1,066	2,053	2,644	10,937	13,950	31,576
Number of Farms Reporting	32	28	52	59	204	84	459
Other Improved Land Area	332	734	515	503	2,828	2,044	6,957
Number of Farms Reporting	49	44	60	74	226	93	546
Total Unimproved Land Area	5,906	22,884	7,951	14,265	47,191	47,911	146,108
Woodland Area	1,757	4,301	2,284	3,225	8,526	8,653	28,746
Number of Farms Reporting	22	25	36	39	102	42	266
Other Unimproved Land Area	4,149	18,583	5,666	11,640	38,665	39,258	117,362
Number of Farms Reporting	57	40	82	89	263	111	642

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture
December 1983

TABLE 6

FT. ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT:

NUMBER OF FARMS BY FARM SALES CLASS

SALES	$-2499	$2500-9999	$10,000+
1971	392	302	140
1976	183	293	347
1981	152	222	494

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 7

FT. ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY PRODUCT TYPE AND SALES -1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Dairy	4	3	5	9	8	8	37
Cattle	15	9	11	21	95	24	175
Hogs	2	1	1	1	5	2	12
Poultry	8	2	1	1	1	3	16
Wheat	2	3	8	5	30	10	58
Small Grains	21	21	44	49	172	78	385
Other Field Crops	9	6	11	8	16	3	53
Fruits and Vegetables	2	-	2	-	-	-	4
Miscellaneous Specialty	14	9	12	4	7	5	51
Livestock Combination	3	6	8	8	9	2	36
Field Crops Combination	-	-	1	1	4	-	6
Other Combinations	7	5	6	5	8	4	35
TOTAL	87	65	110	112	355	139	868

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 8

FT. ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY SIZE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
1-2 Acres	2	-	-	1	2	-	5
3-9 Acres	4	2	-	1	1	-	8
10-69 Acres	12	2	2	-	5	2	23
70-129 Acres	4	2	2	1	2	-	11
130-179 Acres	28	20	38	19	25	2	132
180-239 Acres	-	1	5	1	3	-	10
240-399 Acres	20	18	23	29	41	2	133
400-559 Acres	3	4	15	19	47	2	90
560-759 Acres	5	5	16	15	72	11	124
760-1119 Acres	5	3	6	12	61	18	105
1120-1599 Acres	3	2	1	7	55	23	91
1600 Acres and Over	1	6	2	7	41	79	136
TOTAL	87	65	110	112	355	139	868

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

FT. ST. JOHN: AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE BASE

Farm Taxfiler's Income

The district has a relatively high proportion of high income operations. In 1981, 57 percent of farms had sales in excess of $10,000 compared to 40 percent for B.C. as a whole. Average gross farm income reported was $25,500 in 1981 compared to $39,959 provincially. Almost all taxfilers in the Ft. St. John District reported some off farm income, with 63 percent reporting wages and salaries.

Agricultural Employment

Over 92 percent of reported days off farm work included non agricultural labour, approximately 60 percent of off farm work was reported from holdings with sales less than $10,000. Farm operators hired an average 8 weeks of farm labour, compared with 24 weeks for the province as a whole. In 1981, farms with sales greater than $50,000 provided 73 percent of agricultural employment.

Agricultural Land Development Act

The 1981 census reported 45 more holdings than in 1976. Land clearing has accounted for over 62 percent of A.L.D.A. expenditures since 1971, with over 15,900 hectares cleared during the period 1971-81. Approximately 33 percent of funds are allocated to land breaking, which has totalled 13,860 hectares since 1971. Operators report using 11,063 tonnes of fertilizer on 79,639 hectares of agricultural land in 1981.

Farm Capital

The total nominal value of farm capital has increased from $122 million in 1976 to $375 million in 1981. The per farm average rose from $141,000 to $432,000 over the same period. The proportion of investment in land and buildings has increased from 73 percent of total investment to 78 percent during the period 1976-81. The proportion invested in machinery and equipment has declined accordingly whereas the amount invested in poultry and livestock has experienced no fluctuation. In 1981, total farm capital per hectare was $1,082, about one-third of the provincial average.

Age of Operators

The age distribution of farmers remained relatively constant over the period 1976-81 with the largest increase in the 25-34 age group. The 1981 census reported 45 more operators in the area than in 1976, the district now represents 4.3 percent of the provincial total.

TABLE 9

FT. ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY CAPITAL VALUE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

Capital Value	Sales $250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Less Than $10,000	2	-	-	-	2
$10,000-24,999	2	5	-	-	7
$25,000-49,999	11	6	5	-	22
$50,000-99,999	44	33	8	-	85
$100,000-199,999	54	102	85	3	244
$200,000-499,999	30	67	175	24	296
$500,000 AND OVER	9	9	82	112	212
TOTAL	152	222	355	139	868

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 10

TOTAL FARM CAPITAL BY FARM SALES, 1981: FT. ST. JOHN DISTRICT

	$250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000+	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	152	222	355	139	868
TOTAL CAPITAL VALUE	26,462,272	43,909,019	144,041,635	160,180,090	374,593,016
VALUE OF LAND & BUILDINGS	21,853,300	34,549,095	112,139,910	124,342,865	292,885,170
VALUE OF MACHINERY	3,861,295	7,720,619	22,525,027	26,105,210	60,212,151
VALUE OF LIVESTOCK-POULTRY	747,677	1,639,305	9,376,698	9,732,015	21,495,695
AVERAGE CAPITAL VALUE	174,094	197,788	405,751	1,152,375	431,559
RATIO OF CAPITAL VALUE TO MIDDLE VALUE OF FARM SALES CLASS	127	31	14	15	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 11

SALES OF FARMS: PEACE RIVER REGION - 1982

Number of Parcels	93
Area Sold-Hectares	12,967
Total Sale Price	$10,653,073
Value of Improvements	$1,023,558
Residual Land Value	$9,629,515
Actual Land Value	$2,944,176
Assessment Sales Ratio	0.306
Mkt. Value $/Hectare	$744

Source: B.C. Assessment Authority.

TABLE 12

AVERAGE AGE OF FARMERS: FT. ST. JOHN DISTRICT

	1976	1981	CHANGE
Under 25	22	22	-
25 - 34	141	173	+32
35 - 44	237	246	+9
45 - 54	223	235	+12
55 - 59	77	75	-2
60 - 64	56	62	+6
65 - 69	38	35	-3
70 & Over	29	20	-9
TOTAL	823	868	+45
TOTAL PERCENT OF B.C.	4.2	4.3	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 13
PEACE REGION
FARM TAXFILER'S INCOME 1980.

	# of Farm Taxfilers	Average Gross Farm Income $'000s	Total Gross Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Farm Net Income	Average Net Farm Income $'000s	Total Net Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Wages & Salaries	Average Wage & Salary $'000s	# Reporting Off Farm Income	Average Off Farm Income $'000s	Total Off Farm Income $'000s	Average Income All Sources $'000s	Total Income All Sources $'000s
Ft. St. John (sub A)	1,605	25.5	40,887.4	1,576	(1.48)	(2,378.6)	1,006	12.4	1,534	17.2	27,675.0	15.8	25,296.4
Dawson Creek	1,265	43.2	54,672.0	1,252	0.015	19.0	753	10.8	1,187	15.2	19,284.9	15.3	19,303.9
Peace Total	2,870	33.3	95,559.4	2,828	(0.822)	(2,359.6)	1,759		2,721	16.4	46,959.9	15.5	44,600.3

Source: Revenue Canada.

TABLE 14

OFF-FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY TYPE OF WORK & FARM SALES, 1981: FT. ST. JOHN

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	87	65	110	112	355	139	868
DAYS OF OFF-FARM WORK	13,157	9,721	15,626	13,596	29,053	5,777	86,930
FARMS REPORTING	61	45	86	78	196	44	510
AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	326	281	792	1,067	2,806	1,432	6,740
FARMS REPORTING	6	4	11	12	36	13	82
NON-AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	12,795	9,440	14,834	12,529	26,247	4,345	80,190
FARMS REPORTING	59	41	82	72	174	35	463

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 15
FT. ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
OFF FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY NUMBER OF DAYS AND FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,000	$50,000+	Total
1-6 Days	-	-	-	3	4	3	10
7-12	-	-	1	1	2	2	6
13-24	-	2	5	3	11	1	22
25-48	1	1	3	3	18	2	28
49-72	-	3	4	2	11	8	28
73-96	2	1	1	7	16	4	31
97-126	5	-	12	13	31	7	68
127-156	4	1	6	3	15	4	33
157-228	17	16	28	14	50	5	130
229-365	32	21	26	29	38	8	154
Total	61	45	86	78	196	44	510

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 16

HIRED AGRICULTURAL LABOUR BY FARM SALES, 1981: FT. ST. JOHN

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	87	65	110	112	355	139	868
TOTAL WEEKS OF HIRED LABOUR	99	53	129	193	1,457	5,143	7,074
FARMS REPORTING	11	7	14	14	100	80	226
WEEKS OF YEAR-ROUND LABOUR	52	-	43	108	574	3,143	3,920
FARMS REPORTING	1	-	2	3	16	23	45
WEEKS OF SEASONAL LABOUR	47	53	86	85	883	2,000	3,154
FARMS REPORTING	10	7	13	11	87	68	196

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 17

AGRICULTURE LAND DEVELOPMENT ACT WORK DONE, APRIL 1971 - MARCH 1982: FT. ST. JOHN DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

	CLEARED			BROKEN			IRRIGATION	DRAINAGE	OTHER	TOTAL
Fiscal Year	Hectares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Hecatares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	$'000
1971/72	555	52	28	866	27	24	3	-	-	55
1972/73	184	92	17	231	25	6	1	-	-	24
1973/74	588	66	38	370	30	11	1	-	-	50
1974/75	2,390	64	152	1,063	34	36	1	2	26	217
1975/76	2,945	80	237	2,755	37	102	-	-	21	360
1976/77	1,404	84	118	1,106	42	47	-	-	11	176
177/78	2,425	88	213	2,531	52	131	17	-	12	373
1978/79	2,385	101	242	1,770	64	133	-	-	7	362
1979/80	1,030	114	117	949	74	70	-	-	17	204
1980/81	1,067	100	107	1,111	77	85	-	-	26	217
1981/82	927	149	138	1,111	97	108	-	-	10	255

SOURCE: British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food, A.L.D.A. Branch Records

TABLE 18

SPRAYING, DUSTING AND IRRIGATION, 1981: FT. ST. JOHN

	PEACE RIVER/ LIARD
Spraying and Dusting (any)	280
Weed Control (Hec.)	35,342
Farms Reporting	266
For Insect Control (Hec.)	3,416
Farms Reporting	35
Irrigation - Total Area (Hec.)	3.24
Farms Reporting	5
Sprinkler System - Total Area (Hec.)	2.83
Farms Reporting	4

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 19

FERTILIZER USE, 1981: FT. ST. JOHN

	PEACE RIVER/ LIARD
Total Area (hectares)	79,638.6
Tonnes	11,063
No. Reports of Any Use	468
Total Cropland (Hec.)	74,201.7
Tonnes	10,420
Farms Reporting	440
Total Tame Hay (Hec.)	10,468
Tonnes	493
Farms Reporting	82
Total Improved Pasture (Hec.)	1,200.7
Tonnes	150
Farms Reporting	43

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

FT. ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Field Crops

Field crops, mostly wheat and barley totalled $12.1 million in 1981 farm cash receipts. Virtually all cropland in the district is in field crops, one third of this is in fodder crops, one third in barley and the remaining third primarily in wheat, canola and other field crops. In 1981, the district had 14 percent of provincial hay area, 40 of wheat, 45 of oats and 49 percent of total barley area. Forage, grain and seed crops from the Peace Region have a variety of domestic, North American and international markets. The forage itself is consumed largely by the local cattle industry, however a portion is transported to central B.C. and eastern Canada. Export shipments are routed through Vancouver, Prince Rupert and Thunder Bay. There is also a growing demand for the award winning honey produced in the area, 1981 receipts totalled $440,000, 9 percent of the provincial crop.

Livestock and Related Products

Sales of livestock and products for 1981 were valued at $12.4 million or 43 percent of total farm cash receipts. Cattle operations accounted for $7.5 million of this total or 6 percent of provincial beef sales. Total cattle herd size increased by 10 percent to 36,545 head over the period 1976-81. The dairy industry is relatively stable with the dairy herd experiencing a 38 percent increase to 1,350 head since 1976.

Sheep production has remained relatively small, mostly in small farm flocks. Predator problems are a constant source of difficulty for the industry and hinder large scale production. The hog industry has experienced significant expansion over the last few years with the hog population more than doubling to 4,700 since 1976. The majority of swine production takes place in the higher sales bracket holdings.

The poultry industry has experienced significant growth with the chicken population increasing by almost 40 percent to 40,600 during the period 1976-81. The majority of the chicken production is concentrated in the higher sales bracket holdings. Other poultry products, primarily turkeys, ducks and geese have remained relatively small with just over 1,500 birds reported in 1981.

Vegetables/Specialty Crops

Field vegetable receipts totalled $22,000 in 1981, potato production accounts for the majority of this total. Census data indicates that there are 3 hectares under field vegetable production in the district. Hothouse vegetables were valued at $28,000, there were over 700 square meters of greenhouse space in 1981. Floriculture/nursery is also important, 1981 receipts totalled $100,000.

TABLE 20

ESTIMATE OF FARM CASH RECEIPTS, 1981

FT. ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

COMMODITY	FARM CASH RECEIPTS $'000	PERCENTAGE	PERCENTAGE OF B.C. OUTPUT
Wheat	3,176.44	11.00	36.01
Oats	1,346.60	4.66	46.35
Barley	3,912.45	13.55	47.51
C.W.B. Payments	2,388.25	8.27	46.52
Canola	1,267.98	4.39	61.61
Potatoes	10.58	0.04	0.06
Small Fruits	12.72	0.04	0.03
Vegetables	11.70	0.04	0.04
Floriculture/Nursery	99.91	0.35	0.20
Forest Products	329.55	1.14	14.09
Cattle & Calves	7,477.54	25.89	6.09
Income Insurance	1,087.54	3.77	
Hogs	963.93	3.34	1.86
Income Insurance	1.74	0.01	
Sheep	120.10	0.42	4.55
Income Insurance	7.06	0.02	
Poultry & Eggs	540.71	1.87	0.40
Income Insurance	0.20	0.00	
Dairy Products	3,282.44	11.37	1.51
C.D.C Subsidy	131.05	0.45	
Honey	440.92	1.53	8.65
Tree Fruits	1.90	0.01	0.00
Income Insurance	0.81	0.00	
Hothouse	27.80	0.10	0.10
Income Insurance	0.98	0.00	
Other	2,235.74	7.74	3.27
TOTAL	28,876.70		

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 21

AREA IN FIELD CROPS BY FARM SALES, 1981: FT. ST. JOHN-IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	87	65	110	112	355	139	868
Flaxseed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rapeseed	162	67	192	331	4,393	10,491	15,636
Farms Reporting	7	3	5	16	93	60	184
Tame Hay - Total	1,026	1,715	1,884	2,943	15,329	16,706	39,603
Farms Reporting	43	34	68	73	241	104	563
Alfalfa and Mixtures	362	283	533	852	4,002	5,335	11,406
Farms Reporting	16	13	24	24	79	49	205
Other Tame Hay	664	1,433	1,352	2,092	11,286	11,371	28,198
Farms Reporting	28	25	50	61	203	86	453
Oats for Fodder	157	155	272	476	1,944	920	3,924
Farms Reporting	10	7	18	23	45	16	119
Other Fodder Crops	32	94	25	56	506	759	1,471
Farms Reporting	2	3	2	3	11	9	30

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 22

FT. ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

AREA OF VEGETABLES ON FARMS, IN HECTARES- 1981 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	87	65	110	112	355	139	868
Vegetables	1.1	0.81	1.2	-	-	-	3.12
Farms Reporting	2	1	1	-	-	-	4
Asparagus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beans	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	0.08
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Beets	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	0.08
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Broccoli	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	0.08
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cabbage	0.08	0.2	-	-	-	-	0.28
Farms Reporting	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
Carrots	0.08	0.2	0.2	-	-	-	0.49
Farms Reporting	2	1	1	-	-	-	4
Cauliflower	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	0.08
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cucumbers	0.04	-	-	-	-	-	0.04
Farms Reporting	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Green Peas	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	0.08
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lettuce	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	0.08
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Onions (Dry)	0.04	-	-	-	-	-	0.04
Farms Reporting	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rutabagas	0.04	0.41	-	-	-	-	0.45
Farms Reporting	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Sweet Corn	-	-	1.01	-	-	-	1.01
Farms Reporting	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Tomatoes	0.04	-	-	-	-	-	0.04
Farms Reporting	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Vegetables	0.32	-	-	-	-	-	0.32
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	-	-	-	2

TABLE 23
FT. ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SMALL FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	87	65	110	112	355	139	868
Small Fruits	0.24	-	1.62	-	-	-	1.86
Farms Reporting	2	-	1	-	-	-	3
Strawberries	0.04	-	1.62	-	-	-	1.66
Farms Reporting	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Grapes	0.04	-	-	-	-	-	0.04
Farms Reporting	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Berries	0.16	-	-	-	-	-	0.16
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	-	-	-	2

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 24
FT. ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN TREE FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	87	65	110	112	355	139	868
Tree Fruits	-	-	-	-	0.41	-	0.41
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Apple	-	-	-	-	0.08	-	0.08
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Number of Apple Trees	-	-	-	-	70	-	70
Pear	-	-	-	-	0.08	-	0.08
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Number of Pear Trees	-	-	-	-	200	-	200
Plum and Prune	-	-	-	-	0.16	-	0.16
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Number of Trees	-	-	-	-	200	-	200
Cherry (Sweet)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of Cherry Trees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cherry (Sour)	-	-	-	-	0.08	-	0.08
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Number of Trees	-	-	-	-	200	-	200
Peach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of Peach Trees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Apricot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of Apricot Trees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 25
FT. ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SPECIALTY CROPS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	152	222	355	139	868
Nusery Products	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-
Greenhouse Sq. Metres	-	-	712.0	-	712.0
Farms Reporting	-	-	6	-	6

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 26
FT. ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
LIVESTOCK NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	152	222	355	139	868
Cattle-Total Number	1,054	2,476	16,435	16,580	36,545
Farms Reporting	71	109	189	72	441
Cows-Total Number	443	1,060	7,057	7,039	15,599
Farms Reporting	64	102	187	67	420
Dairy Cows-Number	85	153	306	806	1,350
Farms Reporting	27	42	49	23	141
Beef Cows-Number	358	907	6,751	6,233	14,249
Farms Reporting	39	80	164	54	337
Heifers-Total Number	167	324	1,879	2,171	4,541
Farms Reporting	42	72	140	56	310
Steers-Number	55	101	964	1,210	2,330
Farms Reporting	22	40	87	35	184
Bulls-Number	43	89	418	357	907
Farms Reporting	30	65	153	56	304
Calves-Number	346	902	6,117	5,803	13,168
Farms Reporting	59	101	176	466	402
Pigs-Total Number	360	780	2,078	1,513	4,731
Farms Reporting	30	53	66	18	167
Sheep-Total Number	341	650	1,712	348	3,051
Farms Reporting	7	10	12	3	32
Horses-Number	700	836	1,239	773	3,548
Farms Reporting	71	95	154	54	374

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 27
FT. ST. JOHN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
POULTRY NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	152	222	355	139	868
Hens/Chickens Total No.	4,016	6,983	10,728	18,894	40,621
Farms Reporting	55	94	123	49	321
Turkeys-Number	222	201	216	51	690
Farms Reporting	21	30	29	9	89
Geese-Number	189	123	154	57	523
Farms Reporting	26	24	23	9	82
Ducks-Number	110	88	86	28	312
Farms Reporting	19	16	22	3	60

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

APPENDIX

TERMS USED IN THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Census-farm areas

The area of census-farms reported for each subdivision represents the area of land operated by farmers whose headquarters are in the subdivision.

Crown lands, usually pasture land, which were operated under a lease agreement with federal, provincial or municipal governments, are reported as part of the farming operation of the person to whom the land was leased. However, land which was used under a per head grazing permit or fee is not included.

Large areas of timber land or other non-agricultural land held by the operator, but operated apart from the farm business, are excluded.

Use of Land

All farm land is classified according to use under two major divisions: improved and unimproved land.

Improved Land

1) Crop land - Included in this item is the total area of crop land sown for harvest in the census year. Crop land includes the total area of all field crops, plus the areas of fruits, vegetables, greenhouses, mushroom houses and nursery products. Because some crops are reported in fractions of a hectare, there may be slight differences between the sum of the individual crop areas and the total crop land.

2) Improved pasture - All land which was being used for pasture or grazing and which has had some improvements made to it in recent years is included. Improvements would include cultivation, drainage, irrigation, fertilization, seeding down or spraying.

3) Summer fallow - The enumerator was instructed to include in this item land from which no crop was to be harvested during the census year, but which was to be cultivated or worked during the year for weed control and/or for moisture conservation.

4) Other improved land - This item includes the area of barnyards, home gardens, lanes and roads on farms. It also includes areas of cultivated land that were lying idle, being neither summer-fallowed nor cropped, and areas of new breaking that had not been seeded to a crop.

Unimproved Land

The area of unimproved land consists of the total areas reported for 1) woodland and 2) other unimproved land.

1) Woodland - This includes farm woodlots, land leased for cutting, sugar bush and cut-over land with young growth which has or will have value as timber, fuelwood or Christmas trees. The area of tress planted for wind-breaks was also to be included. It excludes large timber tracts which are run as a separate business from the farm. There is some evidence that changes in the area of this item between censuses may be due to differences in interpretation. This would be particularly true in areas of bushland.

2) Other unimproved land - Areas of native pasture or hay land that had not been cultivated, bush pasture, grazing or waste land, sloughs, marsh and rocky land et cetera, are all included in this item.

TERMS USED IN LAND CAPABILITY RATINGS

Class 1	land is capable of producing the very widest range of vegetables, cereal grains, forages, berry fruits and numerous specialty crops. Soil and climatic conditions are opitimum.
Class 2	land is capable of producing a wide range of regional crops as above with some differences in variety due to minor restrictions of soils and climate.
Class 3	land is capable of producing a fairly wide range of regional crops under good management practices. Soils and/or climate limitations are somewhat restrictive.
Class 4	land is capable of a restricted range of regional crops such as hardy cereal grains, hardy vegetables, and forages. Soil and climate limitations demand special management considerations.
Class 5	land is capable of production of perennial forage crops only. Soil and/or climate restrictions severely limit the land's capability.
Class 6	land is natural rangeland. Soil and/or climate limitations preclude cultivation, but the land may be important in its natural state as grazing land.
Class 7	land has no agricultural capability whatsoever.
UNIMPROVED	These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory dry-farm ratings. They do not reflect either present land use or the state of readiness for cultivation, but only the potential capability if used for agriculture.
IMPROVED	These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory irrigated ratings. They reflect the capabitity for agriculture if the land unit were irrigated and/or drained. They do not indicate whether the land unit is presently either irrigated or drained.
WATER SURFACES	This category includes all non-seasonal lakes and rivers. It also includes that part of the Strait of Georgia, between Vancouver Island and the Mainland , that falls within latitudes 49 N to 51 N.
OTHER	This category includes all regions of the province that were not mapped due to limited agricultural potential, national parks, and unmapped urban areas.

Peace River Region

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